

# **Shoscombe Parish Council - Chairman's report May 2024**

## **Parish Council Meetings**

The council has continued to hold meetings every two months in the Village Hall. Members of the community are always welcome to attend these meetings.

## **Planning Issues**

The council have considered and responded to consultation requests from Bath & North East Somerset Council (BNES), who are the decision makers, on a sizable number of local planning applications. In doing so the council has considered the location, size and style of each application, any relevant published planning policy as well as information in the Shoscombe Village Plan gathered from local residents. Full details can be found in the Parish Council minutes and on the BNES planning portal website.

During the last year BNES have continued with their new cycle of strategic and local plan updates covering the period out to 2042. The parish council have commented in detail on the consultation options published during the last few months as described in the Newsletter. We have also encouraged local residents as individuals to make their views known direct to BNES council and to our councillors through comments.

All will have one further opportunity to comment on the final proposal when it is published by BNES later this year. After that it will go as evidence and proposals when submitted for public examination by government inspectors late this year with its adoption anticipated in 2025.

## **Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

During the year maintenance and further improvements have been made to the Village Hall, play area and Recreation ground. There is more to be done but I wish to formally record thanks from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Management Committee for all they do to keep this valued community hub operating successfully and for the fundraising they undertake.

## **School**

The School is a very important part of the village so the council was pleased it was able to assist with the use of the Village Hall car park when parking adjacent to the school was lost temporarily for a few months earlier this year until a long term solution was established.

## **Defibrillator Training**

Following the installation of a second defibrillator in the village near the Apple Tree last year, a successful training event was held in the Village Hall during the summer which was also relevant to the first unit in St Julian's Road. A good number of residents were trained in their use. Many thanks to the local residents who continue do the regular checks on each unit to ensure they remain fully functional and available if ever needed.

## **Footpaths and Highways**

The Council has continued to liaise with BNES throughout the year to ensure they repair and maintain footpaths and highways in the village and the surrounding area. In addition we have worked with the BNES to minimise local flooding in various areas.

We are always grateful to residents for reporting such issues as soon as they note them directly to BNES so they can be dealt with as soon as possible. This can be done either online via the Council Connect system, by phone on [01225 39 40 41](tel:01225394041) or by email to [council\\_connect@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:council_connect@bathnes.gov.uk)

## **Climate & Nature Working Group**

The Climate & Nature Group has continued with activity throughout the year. The Queen Elizabeth II memorial tree was planted in the autumn.

The prolonged and extensive efforts to investigate options about electric car charging points at the village hall have concluded that whilst technically possible it will not be feasibly financially.

The No Mow May initiative happened on the Rec for the first time in 2023. It received support from many residents but some also raised concerns around ticks. These have been taken into account in planning for May 2024 with appropriate signage and a modified compromise plan.

The council and the working group have been in communication with Wessex Water about the quality of water in Wellow Brook and are now informed whenever overspill occurs so we are aware..

## **Community Fund**

The Parish Council Community Fund has provided support this year to FOSSA at Shoscombe School, the local Dial a Ride scheme used by residents and to the new working group established to restore the historic fingerpost signs around the village.

All residents are reminded that funding is available to support community activities and applications should be made via the Clerk for consideration.

## **Council Finances**

After careful consideration of our finances given the significant cost increases and inflation over the past two years, the parish council decided to increase the Parish Precept element of the council tax that BNES levy by 5%.for the year 2024/25. This will be the first increase in the Parish Precept element since 2020.

Finally I would like to thank the clerk and all the councillors who have served during the past year for everything they have done for the community & the council.

**Ian Cannock - Chairman Shoscombe Parish Council - May 2024**